

BECKER IS CONVICTED OF MURDER

Second Trial of Former Police Lieutenant for Rosenthal Killing Ends in First Degree Verdict.

AGAIN FACES DEATH IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

Jury Finds Him Instigator of Crime for Which the Four Gunmen Have Already Paid with Their Lives—His Face Turns Ashen as He Hears Fatal Words—Eyes of Foreman Fill with Tears When He Reports Decision.

New York, May 22.—Twelve men decided to-day for the second time that Charles Becker was the arch conspirator responsible for the Rosenthal murder, which nearly two years ago awoke New York to a realization of corruption in the police department and opened a new era of police reform.

Becker, once a police lieutenant, was found guilty of murder in the first degree. Only a pardon or interference again by the court of appeals can save him from following to the electric chair the four gunmen who shot Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, early on the morning of July 16, 1912. The jury to-day decided that the gunmen were Becker's agents.

One ballot decided Becker's fate. It was taken almost immediately after the jurors returned from luncheon at an uptown hotel, where they went as soon as Supreme Court Justice Samuel Seabury finished his charge. It was unanimous for conviction.

Tears streamed down the foreman's face as he announced the decision and tears stood in the eyes of several other jurors; but sympathy did not warp their judgment. They had a good corroboration which the district attorney failed to present at the first trial to support the stories of Rose, Vallon and Weber, the three accomplices who turned informers, but which had been furnished by the new witnesses at the second trial.

Becker's counsel announced that he would appeal, and asked a week's stay for the preparation of his future campaign. The defendant was granted a short meeting with his wife and his brothers and then taken back to his cell in the Tombs.

WIFE KEPT OUT OF COURT.

Becker and his wife were talking shortly before five o'clock in a room adjoining the sheriff's office when a court attendant from the judge's chambers announced that the jury had reached a verdict. John Becker was not permitted to accompany her husband to the court room. Newspaper men with court attendants, counsel for the defense and District Attorney Whitman and his staff were the only other persons allowed admission. The defendant's two brothers, Jackson and John Becker, the latter a detective lieutenant, hurried to a side entrance, where they stood awaiting the verdict. All other doors to the court room were locked.

When the little group in the court room had found seats, a door at the back was opened to admit the jury. The 12 men who alone knew Becker's fate filed silently in with Foreman F. Meriden Bladen at their head. All 12 faces were expressionless.

BECKER KISSES WIFE

Justice Seabury mounted the bench. He glanced quickly at the faces of the jurors, but he learned nothing there. Old court attendants who declared long practice had made them able usually to tell the verdict by the jurors' looks, admitted that on this occasion they were at a loss.

Becker in the room overhead was still talking to his wife when Justice Seabury took his seat. Clerk Penny called, "Charles Becker to the bar!" and a bailiff was sent for the defendant. Becker kissed his wife and left her.

"It's all right," he told her, "Don't worry. They'll free me."

Becker entered by the same door which the jury had passed through but a minute before. He walked briskly to the rail, facing Justice Seabury, and gripped it with both hands. His face was colorless.

GUILTY IN FIRST DEGREE

He glanced hopefully at the jury, his gaze resting upon the face of each man for a fraction of a second. But he did not catch the eye of a single man. To all outward appearance the jury didn't even know the defendant was in the room. Clerk Penny asked the jury to rise.

"Foreman," he said, "have you reached a verdict?"

Bladen, a youngish man, blond and slim, brushed his eyes with a handkerchief, already damp. "We have," he said softly. "We find the defendant—"

He hesitated a moment and continued in a whisper. "We find this defendant guilty as charged in the indictment; guilty of murder in the first degree."

Becker's face was gray as he gripped the bar in front of him with all his strength. The big muscles of his neck jumped out in heavy rolls. His veins at his temples swelled. His great frame swayed and drooped; then with quick control he became himself again.

His legs welled into the eyes of the little foreman. He wiped them away with his hand and then the clerk began to ask the questions required by law. The roll was called and each individual juror was asked if "guilty" was his verdict, too.

Becker stood motionless while these questions were being put to the jurors. Immediately upon their conclusion the clerk began to take Becker's "pledge." To the first question he answered in a steady voice that he was 13 years old, was born in the United States, and that his parents had been born in Germany.

HAD "TEMPERATE HABITS"

"Married?" queried the clerk.

Becker didn't answer immediately. Almost in a whisper he replied "Yes."

As to his occupation Becker said he was a "former police officer in the city of New York," a Catholic and of temperate habits.

This point, it was said to-night, might form the basis upon which Becker's attorneys promised to take the case once more to the higher court. It was a similar question, involving the status of Sam Schepps, a witness at the first trial, but not at this, which enabled Becker to gain a new trial from the court of appeals after his first conviction.

EXCEPTION TAKEN.

Becker's counsel, Martin T. Manton, entered formal objection to Justice Seabury's remarks to the jury.

"I take exception," he said, "to the entire charge on the ground that it is an animated argument."

The verdict caught Becker unprepared, for when the jury first retired his lawyer told him he looked for an acquittal. The defendant at that time declared he did not believe it possible he could be convicted on the evidence presented at the second trial.

Mrs. Becker was even more hopeful. "I cannot conceive," she said, "that any twelve sensible men can give credence to such cooked-up stories as those told by Rose, Weber, Vallon and Pitt. I don't expect a conviction. The worst that can happen is a disagreement. Charles is innocent and he will be exonerated."

TROY CONFERENCE COMMENCEMENT

Poultney, May 21.—The commencement exercises of the Troy Conference Academy will be held from June 12 to 17. On Sunday, June 14, the sermon before the graduating class will be given in the morning by the Rev. Franklin Elmer Ellsworth Hamilton, D. D., LL. D., chancellor of the American University at Washington, D. C., in the evening the exercises of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. will be observed with an address by the Rev. Charles Marcellus Sturges, D. D., district superintendent of the Albany district of Troy conference. On Monday will be held the usual class day exercises and in the evening will take place the anniversary of the Alumni association. The speakers will be the Rev. Ralph S. Cushman, D. D., pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church at Fall River, Mass. Dr. Cushman is a native of Poultney and a graduate of the Academy.

The graduating exercises will be held Wednesday morning, the Rev. Charles L. Leonard, D. D., principal, presiding.

As an example of the union of two people who are weak mentally, physically and morally he said that he recently had a call at the industrial school from a broken down woman of 28 years. Married at the age of 14 because of the crime of a man of 30 years to send him to work and a girl of 11 to make her take care of four smaller children.

Discussing the work of the church in rural communities Mr. Barnes said:

"To attempt to replace the church as the dominant influence in the social life of the rural communities of the State is a small undertaking; it is a job for full sized men and women and will, before the desired end is accomplished, cost the money of the highest of us. If we are to succeed in this matter we must move intelligently. The church has failed to keep pace with the farmer in what it has to offer. It did not call for a high grade of morality to make him deal honestly with his neighbors, but when he deals with a great corporation, which he knows has him at its mercy and will not scruple to take advantage of it, it calls for a different brand of ethics. He needs personal salvation to-day as much as ever, but if his life is to be a life of high morality, he needs a new kind of religion, one that is full of perplexing problems, the result of occupation having ceased to be local, he is proving a failure if he has not training to meet those problems."

Superintendent Barnes was followed by President Thomas, who took as his theme, "The Need of Religion in Greater Vermont," saying in part:

"There is no State in the 48 of the American union, no bit of territory of 3,600 square miles anywhere in the inhabited earth, in which there is more patriotic devotion and deeper affection for the commonwealth than in the State of Vermont. I will not allow that Vermont is just like a great many other States, and that the people of Vermont are not essentially different from a great many other people. Vermont has a spirit and a soul all her own, and the men of Vermont have their own peculiar virtues and ways of thought, as unique as Camel's Hump among the mountains of the earth. Vermonters love their State with almost holy zeal."

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"All over the State there has been a movement for the organization of commercial bodies, for union of effort in promoting industry. Some of the country are in Vermont organizations and individuals are pushing hard for better farming and better marketing with notable zeal. Vermont is in the midst of an industrial and commercial revival, and the spirit of enterprise and push is sweeping over the State like a tidal wave. It requires no boldness to predict an increase of property values throughout the State, improvements in crops and in the return from all classes of farming operations."

"Vermont is not degenerate. No State can be called degenerate which is aroused to its needs, as Vermont is aroused to-day, and no people can be called backward who are untidily bent on removing evils and promoting progress, as is the spirit in all Vermont at this present time. I foresee a new day for the old State when, recovering from the devastation of the war, which drained her blood and checked the migration to the cities and to the West which has made her the most generous benefactor of other States, she will build the old waste places, freshen up every farm and field, expand her villages and cities, and become one of the most favored States in all the union."

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"But the relation is mutual and interdependent. You can't have 40,000 men with 50-cent souls. Their assets will tend to their spiritual quality, by their own folly or the cleverness of their neighbors. You can't maintain a town with a 45,000 grand list when the men of that town degenerate to pauper quality. There is no community of mere money makers under the seven stars. Unless there be found among them men of personal worth and force, whose souls leads them, not in the direction of amassing gain, but in

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"Vermont must not forget that religious faith is the strongest and only permanent basis of honest character and patriotic devotion. It is the church which is the bulwark of temperance and purity. It is the church which fosters thrift and industry. It is the church which creates and preserves in influence the strongest sanctions of all good morals and right conduct. Remove the churches from any town, and in five years no man would care to live there. Loss of faith means loss of integrity, without which business prosperity is insecure. It is not our laws and our prisons which preserve respect for law; it is the faith of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ."

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CONGREGATIONAL CONVENTION AT RUTLAND CLOSING

Session Attended by Large Number of Persons—President Thomas and Supt. Barss Speakers.

Rutland, May 21.—The 15th annual State convention of the Vermont Congregationalists was brought to a close at the Congregational Church here at eleven o'clock this morning after three days of inspiring sessions. The features of the closing gathering were addresses by J. N. Barss of Vergennes, superintendent of the Vermont Industrial school, and the Rev. Dr. John M. Thomas, president of Middlebury College.

The closing session was attended by 125 persons. Superintendent Barss, who was the first speaker, discussed "Rural Conditions in Vermont." He touched upon the alleged decline of the church, the introduction of alien elements, the necessity for strong leaders in rural communities, the present need of cooperation of farmers and the effect of environment in making a thing.

The causes for degeneracy in Vermont received considerable attention and Mr. Barss, in this connection, discussed heredity and made a plea for fewer criminal laws in the State but laws which will put a check on the propagation of the human race of a high grade of morality.

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Reports Show Loss in Membership and a Balance in the Treasury—63 Take G. M. Degree.

Montpelier, May 21.—The 68th annual session of the grand lodge of Odd Fellows of Vermont occupied the third day of the week's proceedings. The city was filled with hundreds of representatives of the various lodges, grand officers, wives of members and members of the Rebekah lodges.

The session opened in Odd Fellows' hall on Elm street with Grand Master E. L. Ingalls of Hartford presiding. Among the reports submitted was that of the secretary, which showed the membership to be in January last 13,849, a loss of 415. The treasurer's report showed disbursements to be \$2,000, the balance on hand \$8,565, and cost of maintenance of G. H. Home \$4,995.

The following officers were elected: Grand master, P. J. Putnam, Windsor; deputy grand master, L. C. Holcomb, Milton; grand warden, L. G. Roy, East Barre; grand secretary, O. H. Hendon, St. Johnsbury; grand treasurer, L. C. Grant, Burlington; grand chaplain, the Rev. J. B. Reardon, Barre; grand representatives, F. G. Nichols, Richmond, and E. L. Ingalls of Hartford.

Sixty-three took the past grand master's degree. Among the guests were J. W. Robert, past grand master of Massachusetts, and W. F. Johnson, past grand patriarch of Massachusetts.

At the afternoon session these appointments were announced: Grand marshal, E. A. Sisco, Woodstock; grand conductor, O. W. Edwards, Burlington; grand guardian, Alexander Duncan, Barre; grand herald, H. T. Brown, Ludlow. The next grand lodge meeting will be held in Brattleboro.

At 4:30 o'clock there was a reception to Rebekahs in the Pavilion Hotel parlors and to-night the Rebekah degrees were exemplified in the city hall.

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Reports Show Loss in Membership and a Balance in the Treasury—63 Take G. M. Degree.

Montpelier, May 21.—The 68th annual session of the grand lodge of Odd Fellows of Vermont occupied the third day of the week's proceedings. The city was filled with hundreds of representatives of the various lodges, grand officers, wives of members and members of the Rebekah lodges.